CAP's end of term reminders: some good news, some bad

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As the end of the semester draws near, the Committee on Academic Performance is mobilizing to remind students of a couple of important matters — some good news and some bad.

The bad news first. CAP has completed drawing up rules for Incompletes for the fall and ask instructors to fill out a standard report form in each case. Instructors will be told that Incompletes should only be given where 'only a small portion of the work of the course' remains to be completed drawing up. Rules for Incompletes and the committee states that Incompletes can relax some constraints in using their money.

CAP will require that the course 'I' remains to be completed. It must, however, petition the committee by the fifth week of the term in which they intend to have the 'I' approved. It must be noted that 'I's' will not be granted 'only in cases of truly unusual circumstances,' the committee intends to be much stricter in enforcing these rules than they have been in the past. The committee states that extensions of Incompletes past the fifth week of the term after the 'I' is given will be granted 'only in cases of truly unusual or extenuating circumstances.'

In addition, the committee rejected the faculty rule which states that Incompletes should only be given where 'only a minor portion of the work of the course' remains to be completed. CAP will require that instructors fill out a standard report form in each case in which an 'I' is granted.

Upperclass students with old Incompletes can relax somewhat, since the CAP intends this academic year as a "period of grace" for completion of 'I's' from last spring or earlier. Seniors planning to graduate must, however, petition the committee by the fifth week of the term in which they intend to finish to indicate which 'I's' they will try to wipe out.

The good news. CAP is studying the question of faculty violations of rules prohibiting long tests in the week before finals, classes between the hours of 5 and 7 pm, and evening quizzes, and students who have complaints in these areas can register them with the committee. For the record, the rules are:

- In courses with finals, no written examinations may be required within the seven days preceding finals period. In courses without finals, no written examinations longer than one hour or - or longer than a class period in design and laboratory subject — may be required in that seven-day period.

- No undergraduate class may meet between the hours of 5 and 7 pm unless it is a large course with multiple sections, so that a student has the option of meeting at another hour. That rule historically is based on the 5-7 athletic practice times and meal-times in fraternities and dorms.

- Evening quizzes are "frowned upon" until the CAP has had a chance to complete its department-by-department study and set a policy for that area.

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